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NASTC explores warfighting needs in 21st century

by AFRL/ASC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — Air Force Research Laboratory Commander Brig. Gen. Paul D. Nielsen and Aeronautical Systems Center Commander Lt. Gen. Robert F. Raggio served as co-hosts of the second annual National Aerospace Systems and Technology Conference held May 15-17 at the Dayton Convention Center.

Government, industry and academia together with operators, scientists and acquisition professionals were brought together to discuss the technologies necessary to deliver Air Force warfighting capabilities and influence Air Force and industry investment decisions. This year's theme was entitled "21st Century Air Force – Global Vigilance, Reach and Power."

Commander Maj. Gen. Lester L. Lyles of Air Force Materiel Command took the opportunity to speak about how both AFMC and the Air Force would organize.

"We need to take advantage of our center commanders' expertise to identify, advocate and implement cross cutting solutions and promote enterprise integration," said Lyles. "We're providing better capability. A system-to-system gives greater authority to center commanders to enhance and improve combat effectiveness and capabilities for the warfighter."

Day one of the conference provided top-level perspectives on the future of the Air Force and aerospace. A strategic outlook of future capabilities and technology from Air Force, Navy and industry leaders was presented.

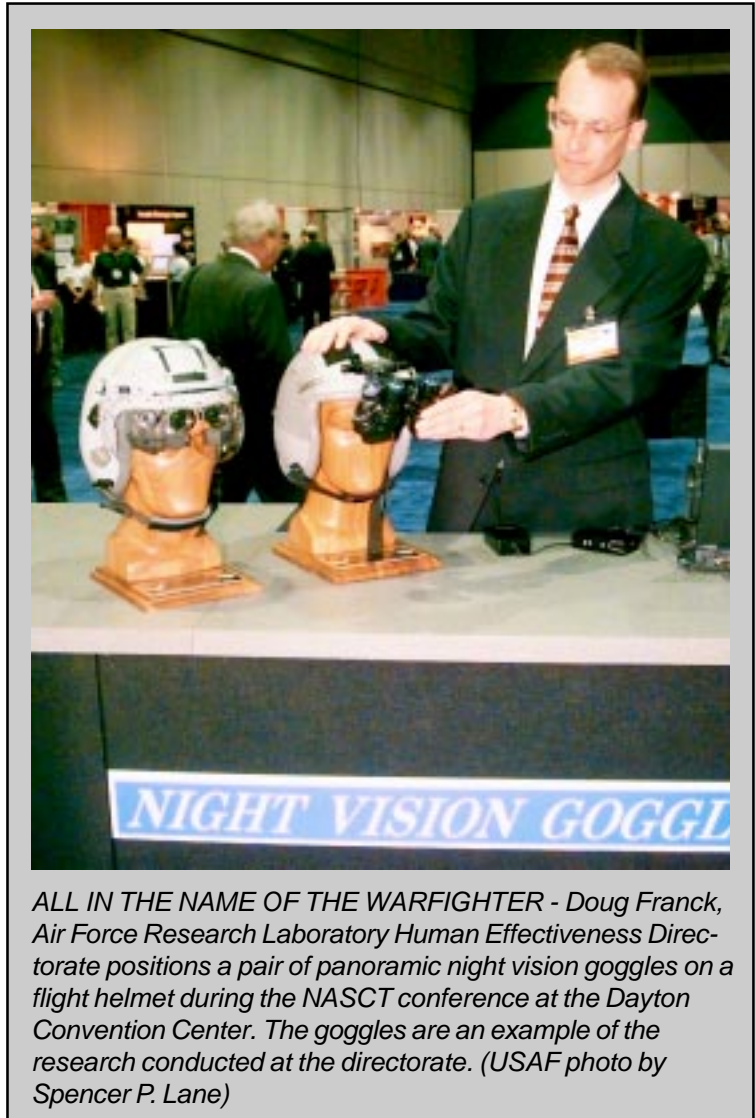
The second day focused on specific definitions for future capability requirements from an aeronautical perspective. Also a panel with Air Force leaders was held to discuss warfighter needs.

The need to plan and execute technology investments to provide future warfighter capability was the focus of the final day. Additionally, specific changes in doctrine and the strategic planning process were addressed.

Up from last year's attendance of 650 registrants, nearly 775 people created a packed auditorium and created a spillover

crowd to watch from big screen TVs in an adjacent room.

NASTC 2002 has been scheduled for May 14-16 at the Dayton Convention Center. @



ALL IN THE NAME OF THE WARFIGHTER - Doug Franck, Air Force Research Laboratory Human Effectiveness Directorate positions a pair of panoramic night vision goggles on a flight helmet during the NASCT conference at the Dayton Convention Center. The goggles are an example of the research conducted at the directorate. (USAF photo by Spencer P. Lane)